

SENATE BILL 2224

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,
Chapter 2, relative to days of special observance.

WHEREAS, Alexander disease is a very rare autosomal dominant leukodystrophy, which is a neurological condition caused by anomalies in the myelin that protect nerve fibers in the brain; and

WHEREAS, since the disease was first described in 1949, approximately 500 cases have been reported, with four patients currently living in Tennessee, Grayson Berry Ledbetter of Chattanooga, John Cameron Copeland of Chattanooga, Meris Brynn White of Knoxville, and Gregory Chayse Andrews of Hampton; and

WHEREAS, while there is no treatment or cure for Alexander disease, there is hope, as promising results in medical tests since 2016 have paved the path toward clinical trials of a drug to treat Alexander disease, one of which began in late 2021; and

WHEREAS, efforts to raise awareness of this rare disease and its impact on those afflicted and their families are underway; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

April 7 of each year is to be observed as "Alexander Disease Day," to raise public awareness of the rare autosomal dominant leukodystrophy, a neurological condition caused by anomalies in the myelin that protect nerve fibers in the brain. This day is not a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.